

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action mailed on October 18, 2006. Claims 1-14 were under consideration in the case, and claims 15-29 were withdrawn from consideration. The Examiner rejected claims 1-14. With this amendment, claims 1 and 3 are amended, claim 2 is canceled, and the remaining claims are unchanged in the Application.

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 101. The Examiner stated that the claimed invention is "neither a physical transformation nor a tangible result." Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection. Claim 1 has been amended to include "receiving the DRS; normalizing a form in which boxes and box elements are represented in the DRS by deleting unused boxes from the DRS; sorting the boxes and box elements...; normalizing a form in which markers are represented in the DRS; and sorting the boxes and box elements based on the preliminary ordering and based on the marker normal form to generate a DRS in a normal form." Thus, Applicant would submit that the entire claim is a transformation that yields a tangible result. The transformation is accomplished by transforming a discourse representation structure (DRS) into a completely different form. This is done by deleting elements of the DRS, sorting various elements, normalizing other elements, and finally sorting boxes and box elements, in order to "generate a DRS in a normal form." Thus, it is now clear that claim 1 is specifically drawn to a transformation that generates a tangible result, the tangible result being a DRS in a normal form. Thus, Applicant submits that the claims are now drawn to statutory subject matter under 35 U.S.C. § 101.

On page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected independent claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Saldanha et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,714,939). Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection.

In making the rejection, the Examiner acknowledged that Saldanha et al. does not teach even a single element of independent claim 1. Applicant respectfully submits that, since Saldanha et al. is the only reference cited against claim 1 by the Examiner, and since Saldanha et al. does not teach even a single element of the claim, it is simply not reasonable for the Examiner

to conclude that Saldanha et al. renders independent claim 1 obvious. There must be a teaching or suggestion of each and every element of the claim in the prior art, in order for the claim to be obvious. The only reference cited by the Examiner does not teach even a single element of the claim, and this is expressly acknowledged by the Examiner. Therefore, Applicant submits that Saldanha et al. cannot render independent claim 1 obvious.

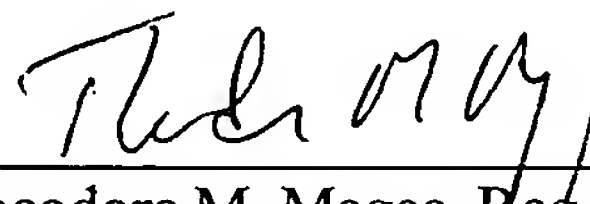
Despite that fact, in order to expedite prosecution, Applicant has incorporated dependent claim 2 into independent claim 1. There being no prior art rejection against dependent claim 2, Applicant submits that independent claim 1 is now allowable.

Reconsideration and allowance of independent claim 1, and dependent claims 3-14, which dependent from independent claim 1, are respectfully requested.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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